

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 03355 301616Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----021200 301617Z /43
O 301613Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3045

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03355

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ
SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24

1. AS DEPT AWARE, INDIAN AMB JAIPAL APPROACHED AMB MCHENRY CONCERNING TACTICAL SITUATION ON PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24. HE SHARES OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE THAT VOTE ON STRAIGHT DEFERRAL MOTION WOULD VERY LIKELY GO AGAINST US. (THIS IS ALSO PRESENT AUSTRALIAN ASSESSMENT.) JAIPAL THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT HE, IN COOPERATION WITH TANZANIAN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SALIM AND POSSIBLY YUGOSLAVIA PUT FORWARD INFORMALLY WITH OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS A DRAFT RESOLUTION THAT AFTER CITING PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION, GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT ON PLANS FOR REFERENDUM AND YOUNG STATEMENT INDICATING NO US OBJECTION TO UN OBSERVATION OF SUCH REFERENDUM IF PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE EXTENDED INVITATION, WOULD REQUEST RAPPORTEUR TO UPDATE HIS REPORT TO FACILITATE FURTHER COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF QUESTION.

2. FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH DEPT, MCHENRY INFORMED JAIPAL THAT WE WOULD STRONGLY PREFER CONSENSUS STATEMENT BY C-24 PRESIDENT CONTAINING SUBSTANCE ALONG LINES JAIPAL HAD SUGGESTED. PROPOSED TEXT LATER RECEIVED FROM JAIPAL (DATAFAXED TO DEPT - IO/MAYNES AUG 29) WAS HEADED CONFIDENTIAL

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"CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OR RESOLUTION" ALTHOUGH CAST IN FORM OF RESOLUTION. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH JAIPAL HE TOLD MCHENRY THAT SALIM APPEARED WILLING TO JOIN WITH HIM IN PUTTING FORWARD TEXT TO OTHER C-24 MEMBERS BUT THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO DO SO BY RESOLUTION IN ORDER TO REDUCE OBJECTIONS FROM OPPONENTS.

3. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO TRY FOR A CONSENSUS STATEMENT BUT SO LONG AS THE SUBSTANCE OF A RESOLUTION REMAINS THE SAME IT IS OUR ASSESSMENT THAT TACTICAL APPROACH PROPOSED BY JAIPAL IS OUR BEST HOPE FOR SATISFACTORY OUTCOME IN C-24. SALIM'S SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL. A RESOLUTION WHICH IS SUBSTANTIVELY ACCEPTABLE PROVIDES NO GREATER BASIS FOR FUTURE ADVERSE ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE OR BY THE GA THAN A CONSENSUS STATEMENT. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT ADOPTION OF A SIMPLE DEFERRAL MOTION IS MOST PROBABLY NOT A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY THIS YEAR, AT LEAST NOT UNLESS WE HAVE SHOWN A MORE POSITIVE STANCE FIRST. IF CONSENSUS IS BLOCKED BY CUBA AND ITS ALLIES, WE COULD STILL FALL BACK TO DEFERRAL MOTION FROM WHAT WOULD THEN BE A STRONGER POSITION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. WE URGENTLY REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO TELL JAIPAL HE SHOULD PROCEED IN COOPERATION WITH SALIM TO SEEK AGREEMENT ON A CONSENSUS BUT IF NECESSARY ON A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD BE ADOPTED IF POSSIBLE BY CONSENSUS AND WOULD CONTAIN THE SAME SUBSTANCE AS A CONSENSUS STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN. WE WILL OF COURSE KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH DEPT ON PRECISE WORDING. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AUSTRALIANS WHO AGREE WITH THIS TACTICAL APPROACH. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOTING, INDEPENDENCE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN03355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780354-0450
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978086/aaaaaeqt.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e5018762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1724876
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, RQ, UNGA, COMMITTEE OF 24
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e5018762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014